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CONSUMER TRADE GAINS AFTER PRICE DROP

NOVOSIBIRSK RETAIL TRADE INCREASED -- Sovetskaya Sibir', No 42, 2 Mar 49

Trade turnover in Novosibirsk stores increased considerably on 1 March as a result of the new decrease in consumers' goods prices. The "Gastronom" (special foods) Store No 1 sold 51,000 rubles of goods in 4 hours, 10,000 more rubles than on last Sunday. Trading was heavy in the department store for such items as dishware, haberdashery, and radios. On 28 February the department store sold 90,000 rubles' worth of goods and on 1 March, 117,000 rubles' worth in only 5 hours. Trade turnover at the department store branch was 100,000 rubles more than the previous day.

NEW PRICES INCREASE TRADE IN CHITA -- Zabaykal'skiy Rabochiy, No 44, 5 Mar 49

Proceeds from retail trade in the city of Chita considerably exceeded the February level. After 1 March the daily proceeds in the "Gastronom" (special foods) Store No 1 doubled those of previous days. The demand for sausage, cheese, and oil was particularly great. After the decrease in prices on 1 March the sharp increase in retail sales occurred in other stores, particularly food stores.

Cooperative Trade Store No 1 has doubled its proceeds and has had to obtain special supplies of groceries to meet the sharp increase in demand. The "Osobnivermag" (special department store) sold more pocket and wrist watches in 2 days in March than in all of February. More bicycles were sold in the city in the first 2 days of new prices than in the whole month of February. The "Yuvellirtorg" (jewelry) Store doubled its daily receipts despite the decreased prices on watches and jewelry.

CONSUMER TRADE INCREASES IN CHITA OBLAST -- Zabaykal'skiy Rabochiy, No 43,
4 Mar 49

In 1948 the sale of bread in Chita Oblast increased 48 percent over 1947; confectionery products, 178 percent; tea, 135 percent; cotton cloth, 50 percent; wool, 30 percent; silk, 85 percent; and knit goods, 109 percent.

- 1

CLASSIFICATION

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SECRET

50X1-HUM

percent. There was also a considerably larger volume of trade on sugar, fish, shoes, and other consumers' goods in 1948 than in 1947, and the trade system was expanded accordingly. An additional 176 stores, 95 stalls and stands, and 128 lunch counters and snack bars were opened in the oblast.

Despite the increase in trade, many trading organizations did not complete the 1948 plan for trade turnover, which was completed only 94.8 percent for the oblast as a whole. Local trade organizations and consumers' cooperatives were most to blame for the failure of the trade system. The oblast's trade cooperative technical school, the cooperative school, and the trade and culinary studies school, are not being used effectively to train personnel for the trade system. The trade and culinary studies school has only 35 students this year and had only 48 last year.

Most trade workers in the oblast have had little educational or specialized background. Sixty-five percent of the chairmen of rayon consumers' unions have had only lower education. Turnover of personnel is extremely great. In 1948, 1,500 workers were hired by local trade organizations and 1,540 were released; 46 percent of the chiefs of rayon trade departments were removed in 1948. There is also too much waste and embezzlement of funds and goods allowed in trade organizations.

STORES INCREASE ASSORTMENT -- Moskovskiy Bol'shevik, No 82, 8 Apr 49

The Ministry of Trade USSR ordered that, starting 15 April, all food and industrial goods stores must carry the fixed basic assortment of items. The Ministry order established minimum assortments for large and medium stores and for stores in kray, oblast, and republic centers. For example, Moscow and Leningrad large food stores must carry at least 66 different products and keep several of each type in stock at all times.

Industrial goods stores are to carry at least the established minimum of cotton and silk fabrics, shoes, furniture, construction materials, haberdashery, dishware, and many other items.

KHABAROVSK LIGHT INDUSTRY EXCEEDS PLAN -- Tikhoookeanskaya Zvezda, No 52, 4 Mar 49

Light industry of Khabarovsk Kray exceeded the February plan for gross production and planned assortment. The industry produced 20,000 rubles' worth of sewn goods, shoes, and other consumers' goods above the month plan. The Birobidzhan sewing and shoe factories exceeded the February plan by more than 6 percent.

CONSUMERS' GOODS OUTPUT LAGS IN JEWISH AO -- Tikhoookeanskaya Zvezda, No 56, 9 Mar 49

Output of consumers' goods in the Jewish Autonomous Oblast is only 87 percent of the prewar level for local industry and only 47 percent for cooperative industry. Approximately 20 enterprises and trade artels, closed during the war, have not yet reopened, and in addition several enterprises have been abolished since the war. The Oblast Industrial Union includes nine artels, none of which have fulfilled the plan for assortment of goods.

Levi, chairman of the Union, has stated that the reason for this failure is the lack of raw materials and the fact that there are no large-scale enterprises in the oblast whose waste products can be used by the union's enterprises. Reports have shown, however, that local supplies of raw materials are not being used effectively, and the Oblast Executive Committee has taken no measures to ensure their utilization. Local industry enterprises, food combines, and rayon and city industrial combines are all operating

- 2 -

SECRET

SECRET

50X1-HUM

inefficiently, and have failed to make use of local materials, and to organize procurement of locally grown agricultural products for processing. The "Derevoshirpotreb" (Wooden Consumers' Goods) Factory is still producing defective furniture, and quality of output of the felt boot factory is very low. Such products as soap, toys, synthetic drying oil, carbon paper, which could be produced in the oblast, are imported from other regions of the country.

MOSCOW SHOE FACTORY COMPLETES QUARTER PLAN -- Moskovskiy Bol'shevik, No 74, 30 Mar 49

The "Parizhskaya Kommuna" Shoe Factory in Moscow completed the first-quarter plan for shoe manufacturing 29 March 1949 and released one million rubles of working capital during the same quarter.

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- 3 -

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